

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00259 121919Z

46

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 L-03 ACDA-05 ORM-02 AID-05 EB-07

IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AGR-05

DPW-01 OMB-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /127 W

----- 114936

R 121420Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5602

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

CONFIDENTIAL MASERU 0259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, LT, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - LESOTHO

REF: STATE 45319, MASERU A-5

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT CONTAINED IN
MASERU A-5.

2. WITH NO ACTIVE CONSTITUTION OR WRITTEN BILL OF RIGHTS, LESOTHO
LACKS BASIC LEGAL GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SERIOUS VIOLATIONS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE OCCURRED DURING PAST TWO YEARS, BUT NO CON-
SISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS HAS EMERGED. FACTORS SUCH AS
A GENUINE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ABSTRACT AND AN
INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY ACT AS CONSTRAINTS AGAINST GROSS VIOLATIONS.

3. GOVERNMENT GENERALLY ABIDES BY MOST PROVISIONS OF UDHR.
MORE COMMON VIOLATIONS ARE ARRESTS WITHOUT CHARGES UNDER 60 DAY
DETENTION PROVISION OF INTERNAL SECURITY ACT. IN ORDINARY TIMES,
VIOLATIONS ARE RELATIVELY RARE. WHEN GOVERNMENT HAS FELT ITSELF
THREATENED BY SUBVERSION, HOWEVER, WIDESPREAD SERIOUS VIOLATIONS
HAVE OCCURRED, INCLUDING KILLING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, TORTURE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MASERU 00259 121919Z

ARBITRARY DETENTION, AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

4. IN WAKE OF VIOLENCE, GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED, ALBEIT TARDILY,
TO BRING POLICE, WHICH ARE USUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS, UNDER DISCIPLINE. AT TOP LEVEL, GOVERNMENT LEADERS
APPEAR GENUINELY COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
ARE SENSITIVE TO OUTSIDE CRITICISM. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE
EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS TO GOL OFFICIALS ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MASERU00259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760094-0607
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760367/aaaacgwa.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 45319, 76 MASERU A-5
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS - LESOTHO
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, LT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006